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PHIC INTERPRETATION BRIEF

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LAUNCH AREA B
ICBM LAUNCH COMPLEX
YOSHKAR-OLA, USSR



ARMY



NAVY



AIR FORCE



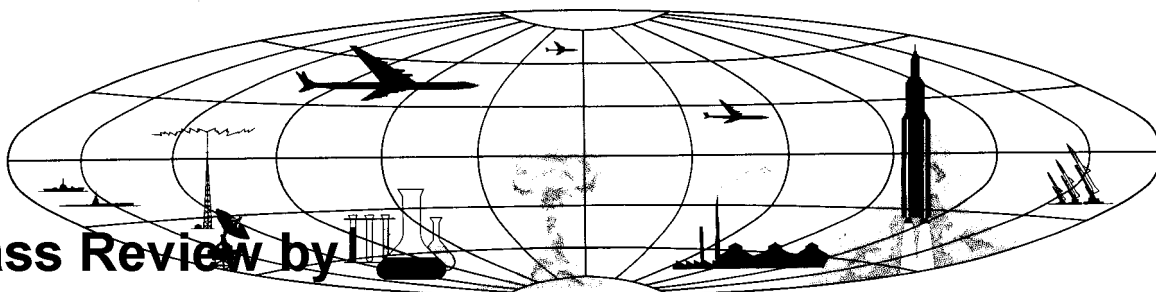
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LAUNCH AREA B, ICBM LAUNCH COMPLEX,
YOSHKAR-OLA, USSR

25X1D Launch Area B, first observed on [REDACTED] photography (KEYHOLE
25X1D [REDACTED] is the second road-served launch area identified at the
25X1D Yoshkar-Ola ICBM Launch Complex (Figure 1). The complex was initially
25X1D identified on [REDACTED] photography [REDACTED] 1/ At that time there
25X1D was no evidence of this second launch area. It is significant that the
features which permit identification of an ICBM launch area can be con-
structed in 4 months or less.

Launch Area B, under construction (Figure 2, item 1), is located at
56-34N 48-16E, 28,880 feet -- 4.7 nautical miles (nm) -- east of Launch
Area A. This separation is consistent with that between launch areas at
other deployed ICBM launch complexes. 2/ 3/ Also, the launch area
conforms to to the same basic configuration as noted at other deployed
ICBM launch areas. The distance between launch pad areas is about
1,000 feet, the orientation is approximately 335 degrees, or the same
as that of Launch Area A, and the clearings for probable missile-ready
buildings are visible. However, poor image quality and the early stage
of construction preclude the identification of individual items.

25X9 About 2,650 feet behind the launch area is a road-served cleared
area (item 2) measuring approximately 550 by 350 feet and containing
a road forming a rectangular pattern. A structure, probably a drive-
through building, straddles a sector of this road. No accurate measure-
ments of this structure are possible, but its estimated size is 200 by
50 feet. This road-served cleared area may be associated with the
handling of re-entry vehicles [REDACTED] It is interesting to
note that a similar road-served clearing appears at five of the other
eight ICBM launch areas identified to date. Cloud cover and darkness
prohibit observation of any similar patterns that may be present at the
other three launch areas. Although small scale and darkness preclude

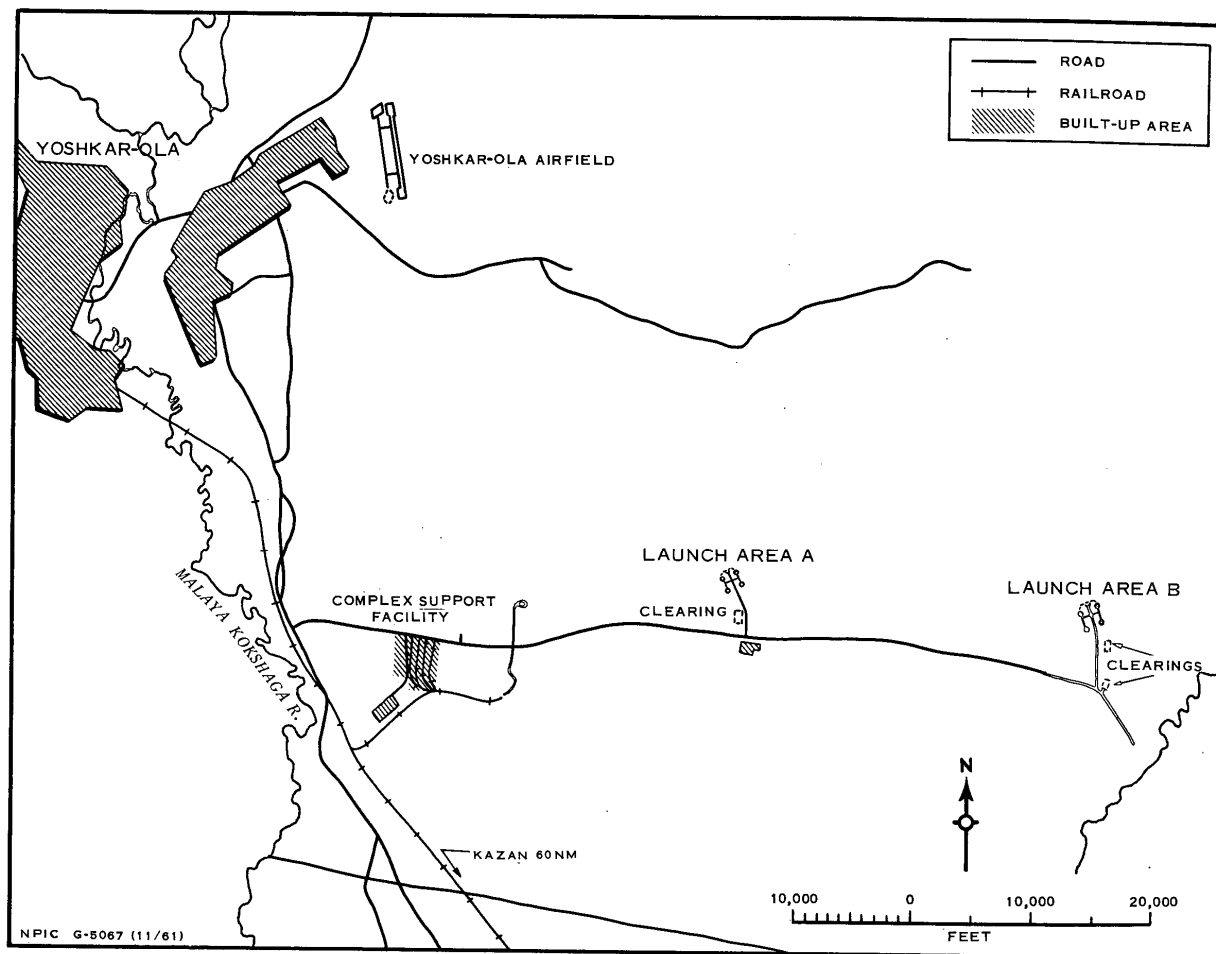


FIGURE 1. YOSHKAR-OLA ICBM LAUNCH COMPLEX. Red shows construction between

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detailed interpretation of the six areas with such a clearing, the clearing associated with Launch Area B at Yoshkar-Ola is the only one in which a structure is apparent.

Another large cleared area (item 3), located near the junction of the launch area access road with the main road serving the complex, is probably the launch support area under construction. From this junction a road extends southeastward for about 4,000 feet. This road is a strong indication that additional launch areas are planned in this direction.

A study of the Complex Support Facility reveals the construction of approximately 15 buildings and of additional clearings since [REDACTED]. Additional clearings are apparent at Launch Area A also, but no buildings can be identified.

Approximately 12 small clearings, irregularly spaced and shaped, are located along the main road serving the complex. Between Launch Area A and the Complex Support Facility, an unimproved road extends from a scarred area north of the main road, crosses the main road at a right angle, and appears to terminate on the south near the rail spur.

A detailed search of the area within a 50-nm radius of the town of Yoshkar-Ola revealed no indication of additional ICBM launch areas and no new SAM launch sites (that is, other than the previously identified SAM site 12 nm south of the launch complex).

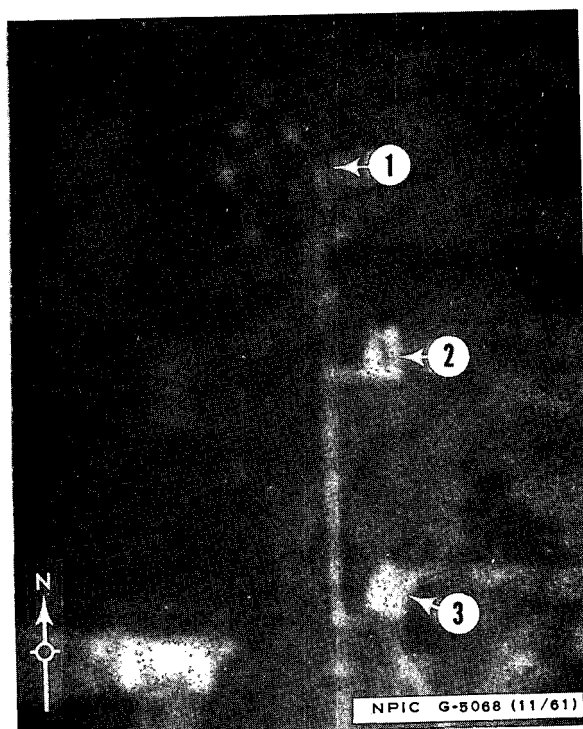


FIGURE 2. LAUNCH AREA B [REDACTED]

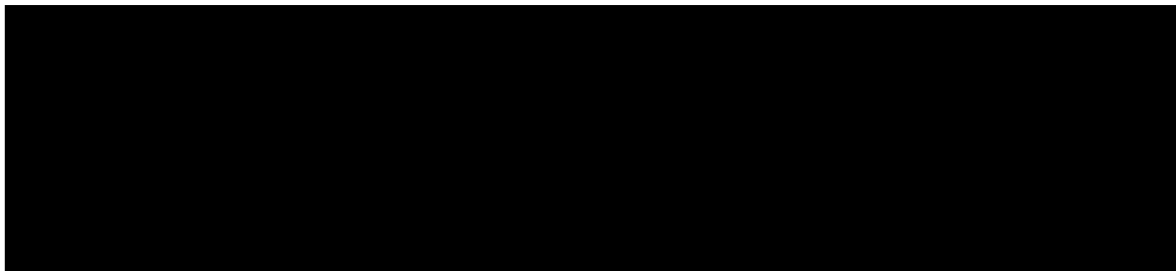
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REFERENCES



MAPS AND CHARTS

- SAC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0155-22A, 1st ed, Oct 59, scale 1:200,000 (S)
- AMS. Series N501, Sheet 38-12, 2d ed, May 58, scale 1:250,000 (U)
- AMS. Series N501, Sheet 39-10, 2d ed, Sep 55, scale 1:250,000 (U)

DOCUMENTS

1. NPIC. R-2/61, ICBM Launch Complex, Yoshkar-Ola, USSR, Jul 61 (TSCR)
2. NPIC. R-1/61, ICBM Launch Complex, Yur'ya, USSR, Jul 61 (TSCR)
3. NPIC. B-30/61, ICBM Launch Complex, Verkhnyaya Salda, USSR, Oct 61 (TSCR)
4. NPIC. B-36/61, ICBM Launch Complex, Itatka, USSR, Oct 61 (TSCR)

REQUIREMENT

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